

REMARKS

Claims 16 and 34 have been amended. Claims 28, 29, and 31 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 16-27, 30, 32-34 are presented for examination.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Applicants note that the pending claims have been reformatted for readability purposes. Applicants also note that claims 16 and 34 have been amended to correct an inadvertent spelling error.

Response to objections to the drawings

Figure 1 has been corrected to include the legend "Prior Art." A corrected drawing, labeled "Replacement Sheet," is submitted herewith.

The Figures are object to because the feature "coat of corrosion resistant material" referenced in claims 28 and 29, "rib/bead" reference by claim 32, and "coat/over-mold of polymer/elastomer" in claim 33 are not shown in the drawings. Claims 28, 29, and 32 have been canceled thereby mooted this objection. Figure 3 has been amended with callout 20 to show the "coat/over-mold of polymer/elastomer". Additionally, the specification has been amended to include added callout for Figure 3. A corrected drawing, labeled "Replacement Sheet," is submitted herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to drawings.

Response to objections to the specification.

Examiner objects to the specification due to the language in the abstract, informalities, and failure to provided proper antecedent basis. The abstract has been amended to remove improper phraseology. Applicants have amended Paragraph 24 to remove the informalities by

changing shoes to shows. Additionally, Applicants have canceled claim 31 having "a rib or bead" which was the reason of the antecedent basis objection.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the specification.

Response to rejections under Section 102:

Claims 16-21, 25-27, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Gutter et al. (USPN 4,696,908).

Claim 16 has been amended to recite wherein each tip is equally spaced from each other tip. Support for this amendment is found at paragraph 16 in the specification. In contrast, Gutter discloses that spacing between tip pairs is greater than the spacing between the tips in a pair (USPN 4,696,908 column 3, lines 43-47). Thus, Gutter discloses that each tip is not equally spaced from each other tip. This difference is not a mere design choice but to allow a secure grip and to inhibit slipping.

In view of the above, independent claim 16 is patentable. Dependent claims 17-27, 30, 32-33 are also patentable at least based on their dependency from claim 16, as well as based on their own merit. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102 rejection.

Response to rejections under Section 103:

Claims 22-24, 28-30, 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Gutter in view of various prior art as well as ordinary skill in the art. Applicants have amended claim 34 to recite that each tip is equally spaced from each other tip.

For at least the reasons discussed in connection with the Section 102 rejections. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 103 rejections.

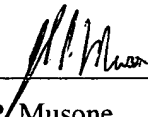
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Conclusion

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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